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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 1740**

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : David S. Wardrop et al.
Application No. : 10/017,483
Confirmation No. : 5180
Filed : December 14, 2001
For : FUEL CELL SYSTEM SHUNT REGULATOR METHOD AND
APPARATUS

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Examiner : Raymond Alejandro
Art Unit : 1745
Docket No. : 130109.431
Date : January 22, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Commissioner for Patents:

This is a Response to the final Office Action mailed November 24, 2003, in which a three (3) month Shortened Statutory Period for Response has been set, due to expire February 24, 2004. Twenty (20) claims, including five (5) independent claims, were paid for in the application. No claims are canceled or amended by way of this response. No new matter has been added to the application. No fee for additional claims is due by way of this Response. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due by way of this Response, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090. Claims 1-9 are pending.

Applicants' attorney thanks Examiner Alejandro for the courtesy of the telephonic interview conducted on January 20, 2004.